

34-year-old drowns at Deer Creek

HEBER CITY, Utah (AP) — Investigators don't know why a 34-year-old West Jordan man drowned in Deer Creek Reservoir, apparently while trying to help a nephew he thought was in trouble.

Ralph Deltoro was in good physical condition and, according to family members, an adequate swimmer, said Wasatch County Sheriff Mike Spanos.

The sheriff said Deltoro was at-

tempting to swim to a 13-year-old nephew who had become separated from a raft about 150 feet from shore "when he went down and never came up again."

Searchers from Wasatch, Summit and Utah counties searched the northeastern Utah reservoir for more than six hours before recovering the body.

Deltoro was on the shore with his wife and other family members

when someone noticed the boy was drifting away from a raft on the southwest end of the lake.

The boy, who was wearing a life jacket, was hearing impaired and did not respond to queries about his well-being, the sheriff said.

Deltoro began swimming and made about 35 yards from shore before disappearing under the surface shortly before 1 p.m., the sheriff said.

Salt Lake Man Drowns in Deer Creek Trying To Save Nephew

24 July 1991
A Salt Lake City man drowned in Deer Creek Reservoir Sunday afternoon while he was attempting to rescue his nephew whom he thought was in trouble in the water, but who returned safely to shore without help.

The 13-year-old nephew had on a life jacket and was floating in a rubber raft 50 to 75 yards from the Deer Creek State Park sail boat ramp, at about 1 p.m., said Wasatch County Sheriff Mike Spanos. He said the boy began swimming around the raft and drifting away from it, which concerned some members of his family watching from shore. So his uncle, Rafael Deltoro, 34, began to swim toward the boy and went under the

water about 25 or 30 feet from shore.

Spanos said Wasatch County Sheriff's Search and Rescue volunteers began dragging the area and were joined by Search and Rescue divers from Utah and Summit Counties, but the body wasn't found until about 8:30. He said the dragging equipment located the body in 45 to 50 feet of water right below where had last been seen.

The search may have had to continue much longer if it weren't for a dog that identified the area above the victim's body. Spanos said all the searchers left the water for about 45 minutes to remove their scents so the dog could pick up the scent from the body rising to the surface of the water.

Recreation vessel fee doesn't affect Utahns

8-8-91
Many boaters, have been concerned they need to pay a new federal recreational vessel fee to boat in Utah, but there's no need to worry. The law does not apply to any of the waters within the state.

"While we have the Coast Guard Auxiliary in Utah we don't have what's termed a regular Coast Guard presence on the waters, and, therefore, the law doesn't apply here," said Ted Woolley, boating coordinator with the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation.

There is also good news for those who like to boat on Bear Lake, Flaming Gorge, and Lake Powell, the three waters Utah shares with adjoining states. The first draft of the federal fee required boaters using these three areas to pay the fee, but this requirement was subsequently eliminated. Also, boaters will not be in violation of the law if they cross into adjoining states while on these lakes, Woolley said.

The Utah Division of Parks and Recreation expressed its concern that the law might be made applicable to Utah, in a letter to the Coast Guard.

"We were very pleased the Coast Guard accepted our recommendations and did not make the law applicable in Utah," Woolley said.

Boaters on the following waters are the only ones affected by the fee.

- The following designated waters:

- Lake Tahoe (CA, NV)
- Lake Havasau (AZ, CA)
- Lake Havasau area — Colorado River between Parker Dam and David Dam
- Lake Roosevelt (WA)
- Lake of the Woods (MN)

- The territorial seas of the United States.

- Internal waters of the U.S. subject to tidal influences.

- Internal waters of the U.S. from which an individual can travel (by connecting waters, canals, locks, etc.) to tidal waters in a 16 ft. powered vessel (with a displacement hull) during most of the boating season.

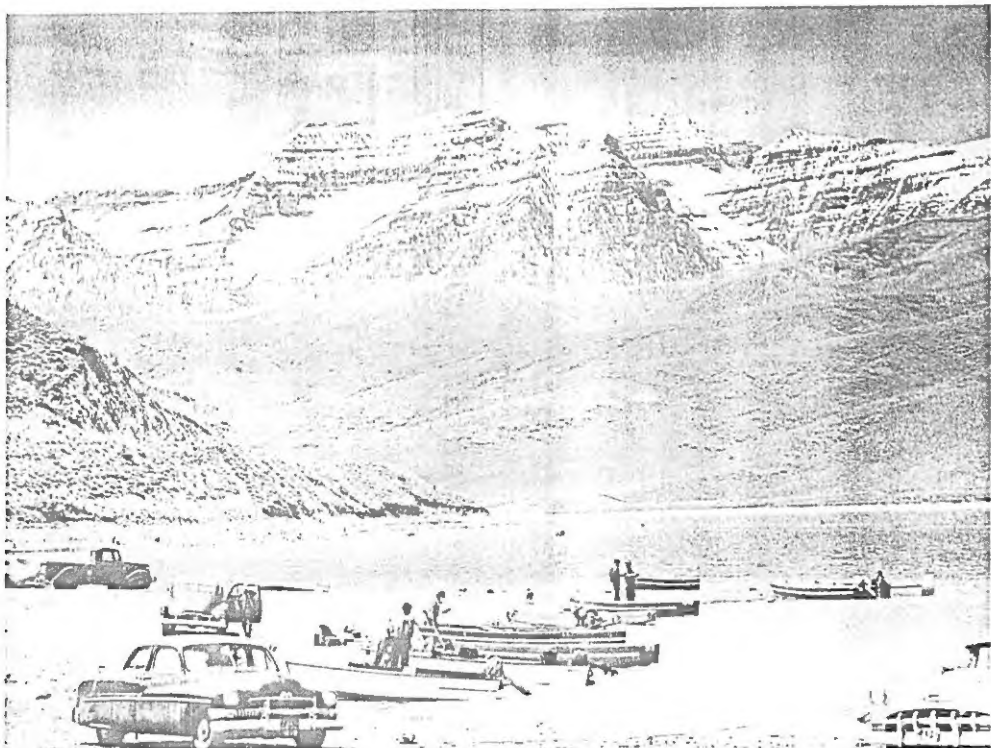
The federal recreational vessel fee was passed to raise money to reduce the federal deficit, Woolley said. A small percentage of the money will be given to the United States Coast Guard to help cover their administrative cost.

Water Sports and Fishing

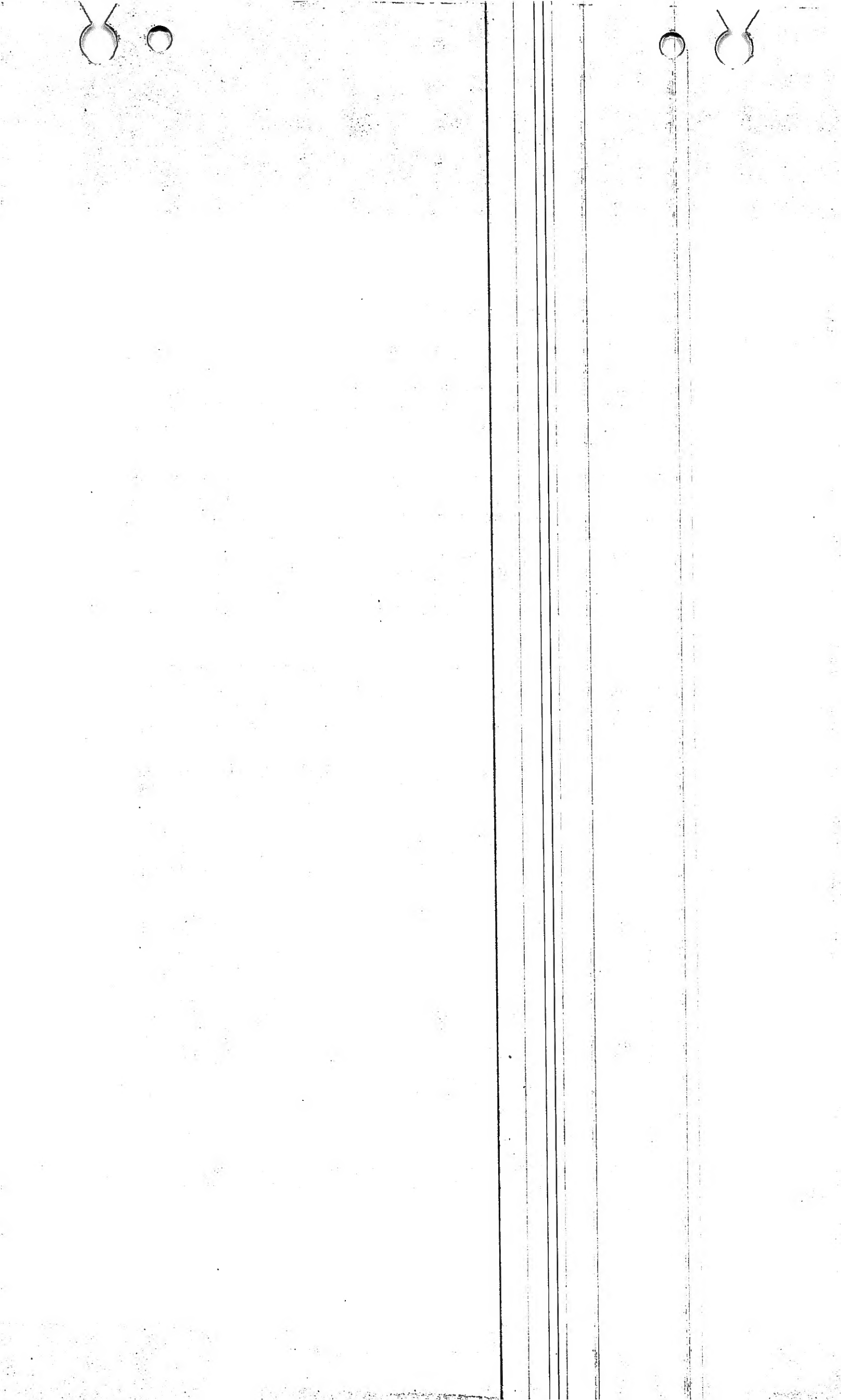
The beginnings of a recreational industry are evident. For example, Deer Creek Reservoir has from two to three thousand fishermen on the opening day of fishing season while Strawberry Reservoir has from three to four thousand. Although these are likely peak days, thousands of sportsmen visit each of these areas throughout the season.

Closely related to fishing activities are the popularity of deer hunting, boating and camping. Perhaps no other single county in the state can offer as much of this type of recreational activity as can Wasatch County. Moreover, the potentiality of these recreational activities will be enhanced when the planned doubling in size of Strawberry Reservoir is realized under the Central Utah Reclamation project. (See U.S. Bureau of Reclamation diagram, page 23.) There is also some possibility that Deer Creek Reservoir will be enlarged.

A third water development and conservation project is the building of a fishing dam on Round Valley Creek near Wallsburg. This will be strictly a fishing lake and will not vary in level as do other water storage projects. Still another proposed water project



Deer Creek Reservoir draws fishermen and water sports enthusiasts from wide area, adding to recreational and tourist attractions



Rescuer saves man from drowning

From HERALD STAFF
18 and Wire Reports
May 1992

HEBER CITY — A West Valley City man remained hospitalized but in critical condition after being pulled from Deer Creek Reservoir by a bystander who dove into 50-degree water to rescue him.

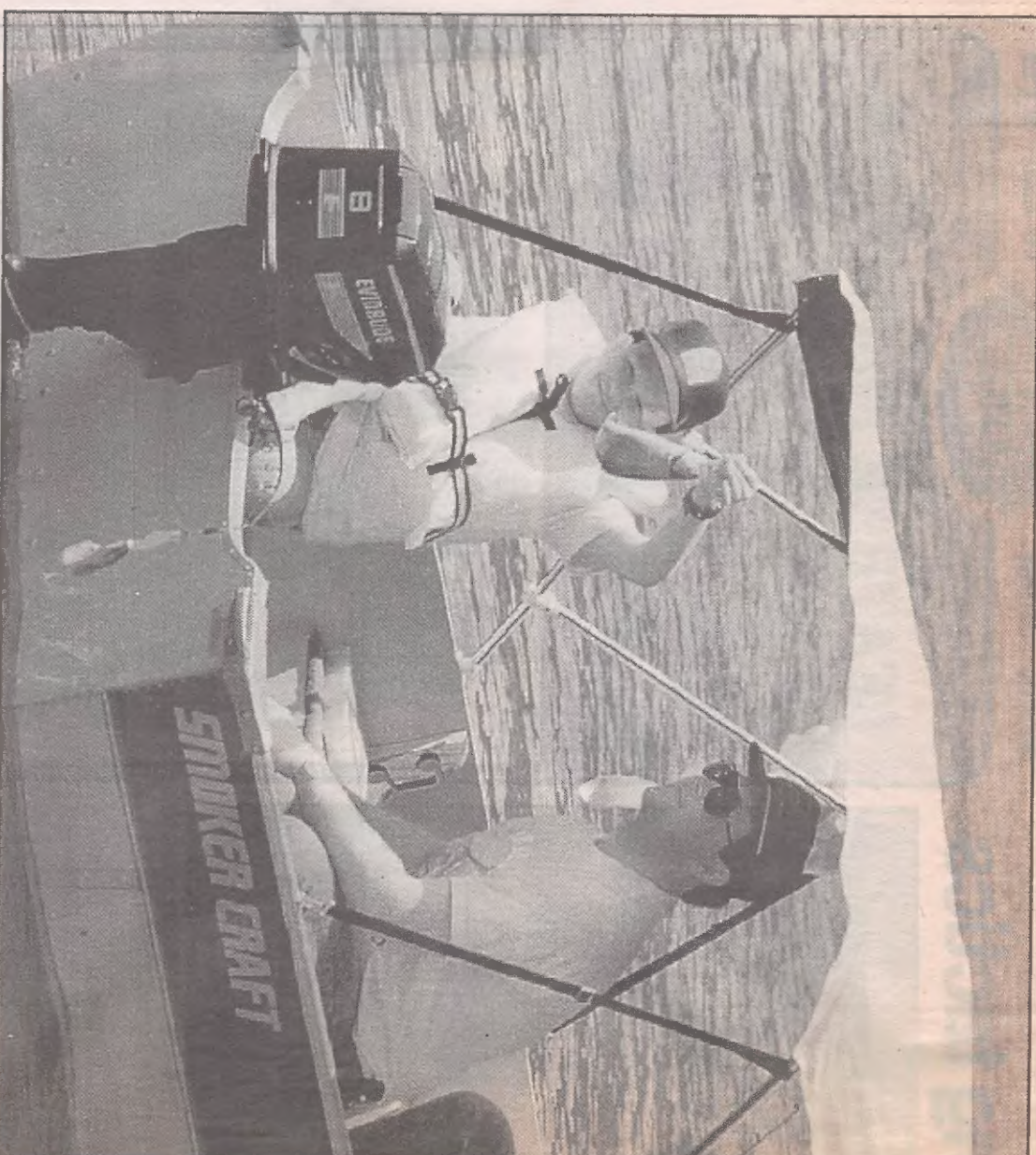
Mike Jones, 19, was swimming about 15 feet from the state park boat ramp Sunday morning about 11:10 a.m. when he called for help. His companion, Jody Olsen, swam out to him but had to retreat when Jones struggled and began to pull her under water, said Wasatch County Sheriff's Deputy Jeff Win-

terton.

Olsen swam back to shore screaming for help, and her cries were heard by Shane Kelsch, 20, who dove in and swam to where Jones had gone under.

Kelsch said he started cardiopulmonary resuscitation as soon as Jones was on shore.

Park rangers Shon Tripp and Marcus Dean arrived and took over the resuscitation efforts and were able to revive Jones. He was taken to Utah Valley Regional Medical Center, where he was reported in critical condition today.



PHOTOGRAPHY/ DON GRAYSTON

His wish granted

Jared Loftiss of Sandy pulls in a nice rainbow trout Saturday at Deer Creek Reservoir. Jared turned 12 on Friday, but he didn't know his wish for a fishing boat would be fulfilled. When he arrived at the reservoir Saturday to test his new fishing rod and tackle, his fishing boat was tied with a big bow, compliments of the Make-A-

Wish Foundation of Utah through a donation from Smith's Food and Drug Centers and the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Murray. Representatives of Rocky Mountain Anglers were on hand to give fishing and trolling lessons to Jared, who has non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. A picnic lunch followed for Jared's family of 10.

Michael R. Jones

Michael Roy Jones, 18, passed away May 20, 1992, of a drowning accident at Deer Creek Reservoir.

Born July 3, 1973 in American Fork, Utah, a son of Aaron Roy and Peggy Ione Robinson Jones. Graduated from Central High, Salt Lake City, in 1991. Previously worked at Crown Kitchen, presently working at Chris & Dick Lumber & Hardware.

Survived by parents; sister, Kathy; grandparents, Reita Bennett, Velma Jones.

Services will be held Friday, May 22, 1992, 11 a.m. at Redwood Memorial Estates, 6500 So. Redwood Road, where friends may call one hour prior to services. Interment: Redwood Memorial Estates. N 5/24 15/24



BOR To Conduct Safety of Dams Study at Deer Creek Dam

The Bureau of Reclamation will be conducting a study of Deer Creek Dam as part of Reclamation's ongoing Safety of Dams program.

According to Upper Colorado Regional Director Roland Robison, the study will include geologic mapping in the vicinity of the dam and exploratory drilling near the downstream toe of the dam. The exploratory drilling will begin in early June and will continue through the summer of 1992.

The foundation of the dam is made up of alluvial and colluvial deposits consisting of cobbles, gravel, sand, and clay. The purpose of the drilling and mapping will be to determine whether sand layers,

susceptible to liquefaction during a major earthquake, are present in the foundation of the dam.

Robison went on to say that Deer Creek Dam is safe but the Safety of Dams Act ensures that Reclamation's dams receive periodic examinations and evaluations for early detection of any potential dam safety problems.

Deer Creek Dam is located on the Provo River about 16 miles northeast of Provo and is part of the Provo River Project. The dam, completed in 1941, is a zoned earthfill embankment structure with a height of 147 feet. The crest length is 1,304 feet and impounds a reservoir of 149,000 acre-feet.

Deer Creek target of dam safety program

By JOSEPHINE ZIMMERMAN

Herald Staff Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — The Bureau of Reclamation is targeting Deer Creek Dam next in its ongoing dam safety program, according to Roland Robison, Upper Colorado regional director.

Robison said the study, which is part of the federal Safety of Dams Act, will include geologic mapping

in vicinity of the dam, and exploratory drilling near the downstream toe of the dam.

The exploratory drilling beginning this month will continue through the summer.

Robison said the foundation of the dam is made up of alluvial and colluvial deposits consisting of cobbles, gravel, sand and clay. Purpose of the drilling and map-

ping will be to determine whether sand layers, susceptible to liquefaction during a major earthquake, are present in the foundation of the dam.

The regional director declared that Deer Creek Dam is safe, but the Safety of Dams Act ensures that reclamation's dams receive periodic examinations and evaluations.

West Jordan Man Survives Rollover



This car rolled over near Deer Creek Reservoir last year after the driver veered to avoid hitting a vehicle that stopped suddenly in front of him.

A vehicle driven by a West Jordan man rolled over when the driver veered away from a truck in front of him that stopped suddenly, according to a Utah Highway Patrol acci-

dent report.

Mike Davis, no age available, was driving toward Heber City on State Hwy. 189 when the truck stopped in order to turn left into a

parking lot at Deer Creek Reservoir. To avoid rearending the truck, Davis turned his vehicle to the right and into the hillside, which caused his vehicle to roll, the report said.

7-1-92



Deer Creek Spills

The heavy spring runoff has caught up with Deer Creek Reservoir. The reservoir is filled to capacity and excess water is being released over the spillway to the lower Provo River.

6-28-95

Deer Creek State Park Receiving Face Lift

26 Nov 1997

Deer Creek State Park is a popular destination for many Utah residents. Currently the Utah State Parks and Recreation is working with the Bureau of Reclamation to complete some improvements in the park before visitors begin packing in again next spring. Paul Dixon, Park Manager of Deer Creek State Park reports that construction is underway at the park. Dixon states, "since Deer Creek became a State Park 26 years ago, it has received very few improvements. Now we are looking at \$2 million that has been approved for the renovation of Island Beach, Sailboat Beach, and the construction of a new office in the main park. We are also hoping for still another \$1 million appropriation from State Legislators which would be matched dollar for dollar by the Federal Government. This money would be

used to further develop Rainbow Bay and Snow's Marina with modern group facilities. The additional funding would continue to develop Deer Creek's Main Park with a new campground, modern restrooms, launch ramp and park road renovation."

The construction currently underway will provide major improvements for visitors to the park. A contract was awarded to COP Construction Company of Salt Lake City on September 23, 1997 for \$1.6 million.

Work in the Island Park area of Deer Creek includes a new concrete boat ramp, shoreline enlargement and stabilization, covered picnic tables, a new restroom, a group pavilion, and a grass area with a sandy beach. Island Beach will also receive road and parking lot improvements. At Sailboat Beach the work will include

covered picnic tables, a group pavilion, modern restrooms, road improvements, a lawn area and a beach. At the entrance of the state park, a new ranger office building will be constructed with improvements at the trailer sanitation station.

The scheduled completion is May 22, 1998 for Island Park and the trailer sanitation station. Sailboat Beach will be completed by July 1, 1998 and the the ranger office building will be finished by August 19, 1998. Island Park and Sailboat Beach will be closed to the public until construction is complete. The restaurant at Island Park will continue to operate during construction.

Deer Creek is one of many projects that will benefit from the partnership between Utah State Parks and the Bureau of Reclamation. Funding for these projects is provided by both agencies.

in Wasatch Co.

& what a mess - ruined only beach

Utah Property Taxes In 1997 Are Expected To Sho

Utah property taxes charged in 1997 are expected to climb by a staggering 13% over last year's figure, overshadowing the 3% increase in 1996 and the smaller increases of the previous 10 years, according to projections by the Utah Taxpayers Association. "This is an indication of the diminishing effect Truth-in-Taxation is having in slowing property tax increases," said Association President, Howard Stephenson.

The \$139 million projected increase in property tax charged for 1997 is the largest percentage

increase since 1983, which predated the public protection measures of Truth-in-Taxation. Under Truth-in-Taxation any proposed property tax increase was to be accompanied by public notices, advertising both the extent of the tax increase and the time and location of a public hearing for the citizens to express their support or opposition to the increase.

Before Truth-in-Taxation, property taxes increased by an average of 12% every year. (See accompanying graph.) When the public notice and

public hearing requirements were first implemented in 1986, the impact to tax increases was readily apparent. Instead of increasing by the normal 12%, taxes only increased by slightly more than 6%. But, since 1989, there has been a continual upward trend in the

prevents them from implementing perhaps unnecessary, property tax increases. Greg Fredde, Taxpayers Association

A large portion of this year's property taxes on newly constructed property. Estimates from the Governor's Office and Budget place the growth in the state's property taxes at \$6.7 billion. This could account for the 13% increase in property taxes charged for 1997.

"Even though the rate of construction is unusually high for 1997, a fast rate of growth isn't a new phenomenon to Utah and is entirely for the huge increase in the number of taxes," said Mr. Fredde.

What sets this year's increase apart from previous years are the 48 taxing entities that are raising property tax rates. "This is an enormous number of entities raising tax rates

The Wasatch Wave

Utah Press Association Member

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Heber City Man Catches a Near Record Fish at Deer Creek Reservoir

16 Mar
1994



by LaRee O. Pedro

David Allred caught a 34-1/2 inch, 17 pound Getman Brown fish at Deer Creek Reservoir Tuesday, March 8. It had a 34 inch girth.

Allred said he caught the fish at the north end of Deer Creek Reservoir about 11:30 a.m., where Allred and his friends Rob't Shumway and Drew Allen from Heber City were "taking the day off from work at Premier Roofing Company, to go fishing.

Allred said he caught the fish on a black and gold Rooster Tail.

"He put up a real good fight," said Allred. "I picked him up about ten feet away from the bank. It took me about ten minutes to land him. He broke two out of three of my treble hooks and I just barley got him out on the shore, when he just about got away. It was close." Allred said he has plans to have the fish mounted.

The Division of Wildlife Resources took the measurement

and poundage of Allred's fish, but say the record for Deer Creek Reservoir is near 19 pounds. "That fish was caught about two years ago," said DWR representative Roger Wilson.

"Actually we don't have a record for Deer Creek, but Allred's fish is well under the state record. The state record is 34 pounds; however, Mr. Allred's catch is probably close to the record at Deer Creek," added Wilson.

"The interesting aspect is that Mr. Allred caught the fish close to the shoreline. This is one of those things that doesn't happen very often. There's a base of brown trout in the reservoir, but they just don't get caught that much. They are a predatory fish and just not as abundant as you would expect. This is just something that happens once in a while. It happens in every reservoir, but only once in a while.

"Occasionally a big brown is taken by very untraditional meth-

ods, it just happens, but there aren't a lot of them in there and that why it's so intriguing," said Wilson.

According to Wilson, the Browns are basically a large body fish, and they are not going to be like the walleye. The walleye run in the spring. You usually have browns around the fall, and this is just a novelty. It's not going to happen a lot.

There are browns in the reservoir, and Deer Creek is pretty heavy with the predators, so it's top heavy with too many predators.

Allred's brown trout looked like he was well fed, even though Allred isn't planning on eating him. He said he'll have the fish mounted and enjoy just looking at it and remembering the ten minutes he struggled to keep it from getting away and becoming a memory.

Fishermen will probably rush to the reservoir, but, it's not likely this event will be repeated frequently. However, it could happen again next week. The brown trout aren't that abundant in Deer Creek so it will be interesting to see if this kind of thing repeats itself soon.

Wilson said he will be putting information out on the fish at Strawberry Reservoir. "Most of the fish in Strawberry right now are cutthroat. We just want to make sure before the ice breaks that we get the information out through the media, our concerns for the proper catches at the reservoir, because we're concerned that we might have an autumn like last fall."

Fishing improved the first couple weeks in September last year. They were mostly cutthroat, and a lot of people who didn't recognize them weren't willing to comply with the rules, so they took too many cutthroats. A lot of violation tickets were written and the officers don't want to do that this year. "It's a lot better to caution people than ticket them," said Wilson.

Strawberry is getting a lot more rainbows in the reservoir. Even though they've had problems in the past in getting the numbers they want, Rainbow fishing is expected to improve through the summer. The DWR is expecting rainbow fishing not to be especially good at the Strawberry, but officials say in the coming years it should improve. Then, in the future seasons it will look good for everybody.

